

Fredd event
analyzes after-
math of Brown
v. Board of
Education



Dr. Oscar Tucker had a strong—and perhaps controversial—take on Brown v. Board of Education, 50 years later.

Fredd campus get-togethers are the kind of events people should never pass up. And whenever the word “cafetorium” comes up, all invitees are advised to show up. For there is invariably good food, good music and good ideas attached to the proceedings.

Friday, Feb. 13, was no exception. In honor of Black History Month, a consortium of institutions got together to talk and think about the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education ruling that started the ball rolling irrevocably toward school integration. The participating institutions were Shelton, the University of Alabama, Stillman College, Tuskegee University and the

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Symbolic Repair



Photo/Brandon Lovett

When an architectural element is used as a logo for an institution, it needs to be properly maintained — that's for sure. So when it was discovered that rain was blowing-in under the dome, the college's logo had to be disassembled and a wind and rain shield installed underneath, with a larger-ridged support structure keeping everything in place.

Singers head into battle

By Amy P. Oswalt
Editor

“Music is the vernacular of the soul,” according to Geoffrey Latham and many students at Shelton.

Music students at Shelton are learning, perfecting and expressing the language of the soul often by sharing their talents in the Terrific Tuesday Concert Series each Tuesday at the college.

The Feb. 17 musicale allowed students to perfect the songs that they perform in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS)



Photo/Brandon Lovett

Perfecting their art in the Feb. 17 Terrific Tuesday Concert Series were (kneeling L-R) Wheeler Kincaid, Jonathan Pate, Chad Mills, Josh Noland (standing L-R) Amy McLaurine, Laura White, Katie Besant, Julia Ayers, Glinda Blackshear, Katie Lewis, Mark Brown, Jennifer Robinson, Megan Skelton, Cassidy Evans and Cyndi Watson.

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How to make
\$150,000 per
year — and
help
humanity



Photo/Dr. Jim Kenny

Dr. Armit Sharma spoke to a crowd of some 40 students faculty and staff members about the real possibility of becoming a rural physician.

By Dr. Jim Kenny
Publisher

Dr. Armit Sharma is a man on a mission — the kind of mission that usually produces great results. It's personal.

Sharma's mission is to increase the number and quality of rural health care, especially by helping produce more primary-care physicians for rural areas. That is a personal mission because Sharma, as a third-grader in India, watched his grandfather die — probably from a heart attack — because medical help was too far away.

This personal history brought Sharma to Shelton on Wednesday, Feb. 18, to speak to a community college audi-

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Inside The Courier

- The Starlets know the routine — after they teach it to themselves page 4
- What's your dream — job, that is?
- Who need Starbucks? We'll have Cy-Bucs!
- And much more!



Cy-Bucs Cafe opening soon



Photo/Brandon Lovett

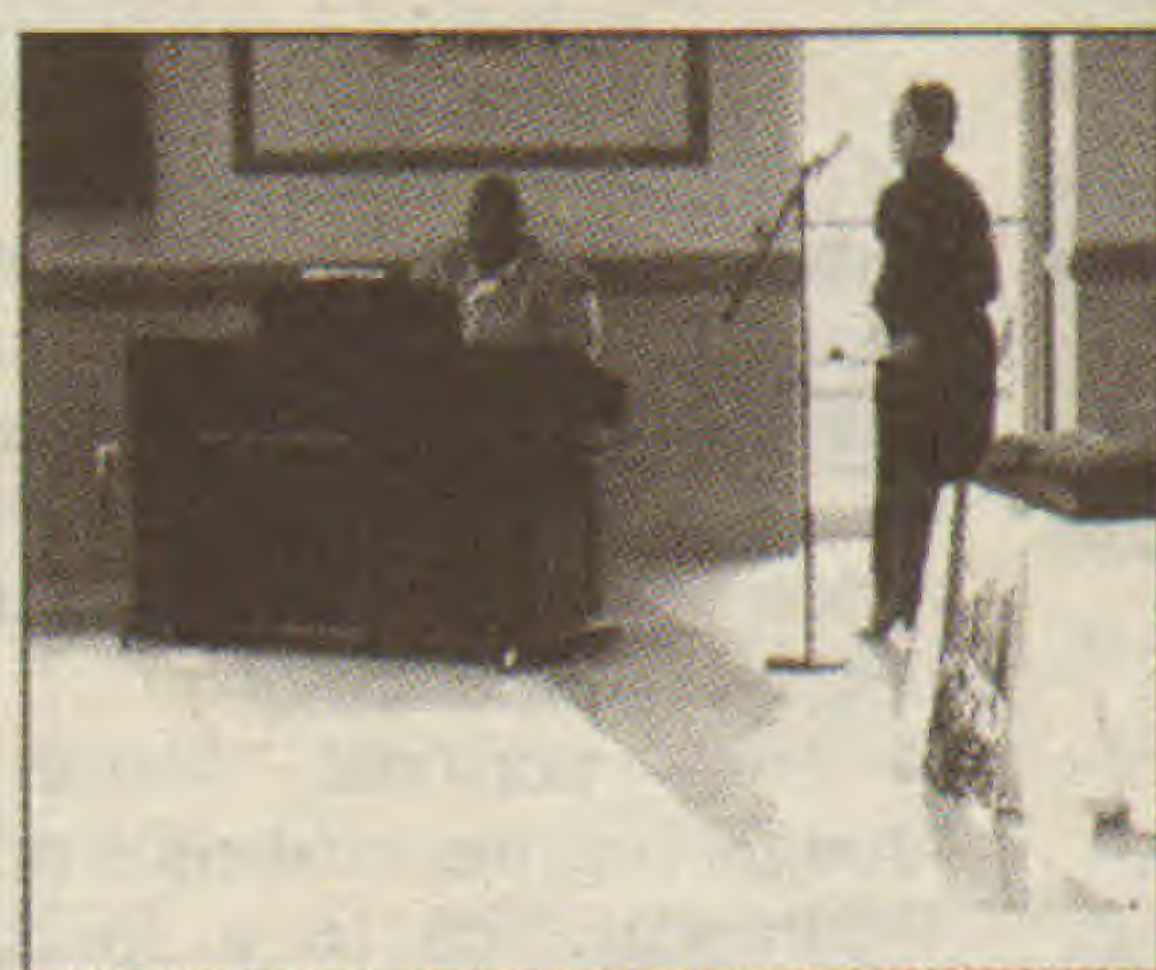
CY-BUCS



Shelton's new cyber cafe is set to open around the beginning of March. The cafe, located on the second floor, will allow students to take of advantage of word processing programs, get on the Internet or just listen to music — all while having a snack. Shelton sophomore Daniel Hill (above) is getting the cyber half of the cafe ready for the grand opening.

Fredd From Page 1

federally funded Historically Black Colleges & Universities program.



Gregory Wilson accompanied Rachel Jones while she sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Much of the two-hour program's entertainment was provided by Shelton, with special credit going to the powerful singing of Rachel Jones and he gospel stylings (a la Ray Charles) of Gregory Wilson.

Dr. Eddie Thomas called the intellectual part of the proceedings to order by hailing many of the civil rights leaders in the crowd. "What we see today are those who minded the store" during the often dif-

ficult era of transition, he said. "Plow the row straight," Thomas urged the crowd. Ronald Range, who coordinates Fredd's HBCU program, then emceed the presenting of the plaques "In the Spirit of Brown" to some 40 education, civic and civil rights leaders.

These preliminaries lead the way for a stirring and forceful keynote address by Dr. Oscar Tucker, a retired educator and former acting superintendent of the Tuscaloosa City Board of Education. Tucker began by highlighting some of the obvious positive effects of Brown, such as the number of black leaders in education, right up to the head of the Education Department in Washington, D.C.

But then Tucker delivered the bad news — the perplexing fact that black test scores lag far behind whites', even as the obvious obstacles to achievement have been largely toppled—one-by-one.

"There are more African-Americans in prison and on probation than in college," Tucker noted mournfully. He

Been to Bangkok lately? Not a bad antidote for the February darkness we've been going through here lately. And with John Burdett's book *Bangkok 8* you get a first rate crime novel along with a travelogue of Bangkok and its environs.

We open with Detective Sonchai Jitpleecheep (don't worry about his full name, just call him Jay; that's easier for Americans) and his partner and best pal Pichai (you can call him Jay too; he's not going to be here long) have come to investigate a car found with a body inside.

As they begin to open the door, they realize that the interior of the car is alive with cobras and the body inside is being devoured by a monstrously big python who is trying to squeeze its mouth over the victim's head. Not a bad start.

In less time than it takes to write, Sonchai-Jay, unsure if the victim might still be alive, fires several rounds through the car's window at the hungry python.

The breaking glass draws the attention of the cobras who latch onto Pichai-Jay and make short work of him. All in half a page.

Further investigation (a

said the problem is truly baffling, but he had a direction for analysis, a two-word phrase: "low expectations."

Citing research by an anthropologist named Dr. Ogbu in a wealthy Cleveland suburb, Tucker enumerated some of the ways the blaccul-

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Off the Shelf...

By Glen Johnson

snake autopsy — a first for me) reveals that the python has been given a healthy dose of methamphetamines to improve its sluggish nature and the cobras have been clocked down a bit to improve their aim.

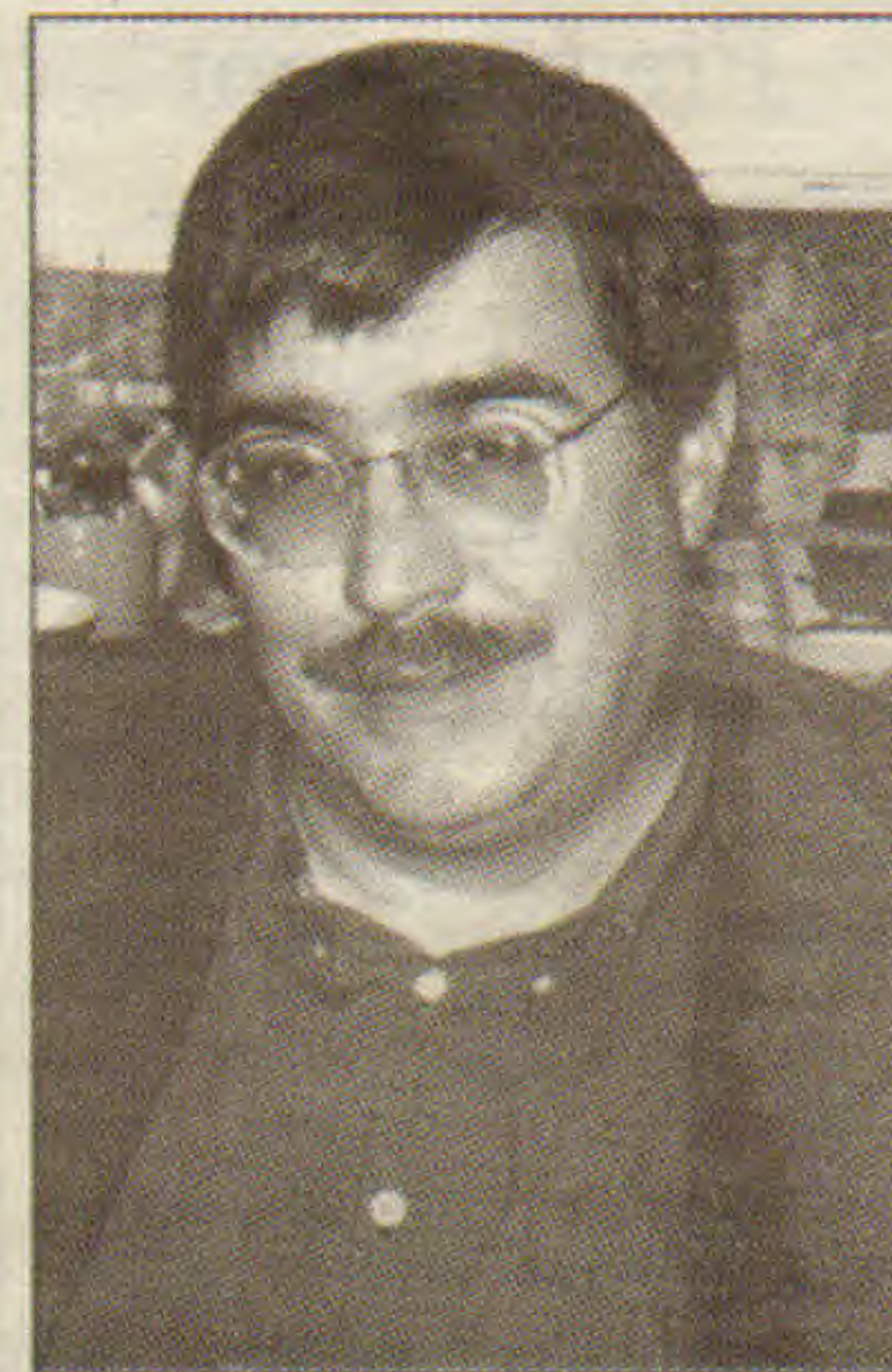
The guy in the car with the python on his head turns out to be a Marine sergeant from the U.S. Embassy who is trying to feather his approaching retirement by operating (unsuccessfully it would appear) in the jade market.

Should he have paid more protection to the local police chief? And what about his strikingly featured girl-friend? She is his girl-friend, right?

And Sonchai-Jay's detection/revenge is not helped any (or is it, mighty zen this guy) by the spiritual intervention of his mentor, a Buddhist priest, or the very physical intervention of his mom, a retired Bangkok bar girl who has big plans (the flames fanned by the business course she has taken on-line through the *Wall Street Journal*) to open a club catering to rich American male geriatrics.

Amazingly, none already exists in Bangkok.

And probably the best part



Photo/Brandon Lovett

of an already wonderful book is Burdett's guide to Bangkok. Not the part American tourists see (although that gets covered too).

But rather the part where ordinary Thais live out their lives, complete with cubicle apartments, perpetual traffic gridlock, ingrown corruption, and the weather. Ah yes, the weather.

Where the temperature never falls below 70 degrees and the humidity remains at around 120 percent. Alabama readers should feel right at home.



Dr. Cordell Wynn, special assistant to Shelton President Dr. Rick Rogers, urged the crowd to "Let's do better together!" at the close of the proceedings.

Shelton State Courier

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and
the MCM 102 class
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The *Shelton State Courier* is a campus newspaper, written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic

freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper.

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The *Courier* is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.



Alumni Association now accepting adult scholarship applica- tions

The Shelton State Alumni Association, one of the oldest and largest community college associations in the state, is now accepting applications for the Louise Pruett Memorial Scholarship for Adult Students.

Each applicant must be a currently enrolled, full-time Shelton State Community College student who has completed 12 semester hours and is age 25 or over. Preference will be given to active members of the Shelton State Alumni Association or family members of active alumni members, but this is not a requirement.

A completed application consists of: 1) The scholarship application which is available online at <http://www.sheltonstate.edu/sscc/info/scholarships.aspx> or by contacting Ronda Shirley on the Martin Campus at 205/391-2252; 2) Three letters of recommendation addressed to the Alumni Association Scholarship Committee; 3) An essay describing your educational goals. Please limit to two double spaced, typed pages; 4) A copy of your Shelton State transcript. Completed applications must be turned in to or mailed to the Alumni Association Office (Martin Campus room 3635) by noon on March 1, 2004. If mailing, please use the following address: Shelton State Community College, Alumni Association Scholarship, Box 199, 9500 Old Greensboro Road, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405.

For more information on the Shelton State Alumni Association, please contact Wendy Jones, director at 205/391-2310 or via email at wjones@sheltonstate.edu.

Landing your dream job 101

As a part of their 2004 Annual Meeting, the Shelton State Alumni Association, one of the oldest and largest community college associations in the state, will host Landing your Dream Job 101 at 6 p.m. on March 9, a fully interactive program which will offer participants guidance on: creating the perfect resume; writing attention-getting cover letters and thank you notes; selling yourself during an interview; suiting for success; and handling lunch and dinner interviews.

Angelia Knight-Adams, PHR of the Career Placement Center in the UA College of Engineering, will share valuable job search information applicable to both those looking for their first real job and those who wish to advance their career by seeking new employment.

Participants will also be treated to a fashion show of the latest looks in interview attire from Stein Mart, and will then have the opportunity

to share what they have learned over a light buffet.

Cost is just \$10 including the meal. Space is limited. Please call Ronda Shirley at 205/391-2252 to reserve your place before Wednesday, March 3.

The Shelton State Alumni Association has long supported its students, faculty and staff.

It offers you the opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones. Through the Alumni Association, you'll have the chance to network with others who have attended Shelton State Community College and at the same time, give something back to the college.

Anyone who has ever attended Shelton State Community College, including those who attended while the college was under a different name (J.P. Shelton Trade School, Shelton State Technical College) and those who attended C.A. Fredd State Technical College are eligible

for membership. Currently enrolled students, faculty and staff, corporate supporters, and friends of the college are also eligible for membership. For more information on the Shelton State Alumni Association, please contact Wendy Jones, Director of Public Relations and Alumni Affairs at 205/391-2310 or wjones@sheltonstate.edu.

Monthly faculty luncheon changes sponsorship



After years of coordination by English instructor Wynora Freeman, the monthly, chatty food fest commonly referred to as Third Thursday is changing sponsorship.

"It became too much for just one person to do," Freeman said. "The sponsorship is in rotation by divisions right now. The nursing program took the first one, and they did a great job."

Many happy, well-fed faculty members expressed thanks to Freeman for handling a largely thankless task for a number of years.

During the Feb. 17 meeting, sociology instructor Carole Hill (above) took the floor during the latter part of the festivities.

Attention Prospective Spring Graduates



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Gotta dance—but gotta learn it first!



Photos/Brandon Lovett

The girls try to perfect the "Beyonce Booty Shake."

By **Megan Alexander**
Staff Writer

Shelton State Starlet dance team faces one of the most challenging problems a dance team could face—the Starlets have no choreographer.

They work as a team to choreograph and clean their routines. It all starts by someone finding music and having it cut for a routine.

Then two or three of the girls will get together and start step-by-step, slowly making up a routine.

It can take the group of girls anywhere from two hours to two weeks to come up with the routine.

Even though it takes most dancers years to learn and perfect their moves, the Shelton State Starlets have only a few days. But that is not the hardest part.

After that, they have to break it down count by count and be able to teach it to the rest of the dance team move by move, and for some this is a challenge in itself.

The names of most dance

moves are in Latin and are a challenge to the dancers to pronounce, but everybody gets the idea.

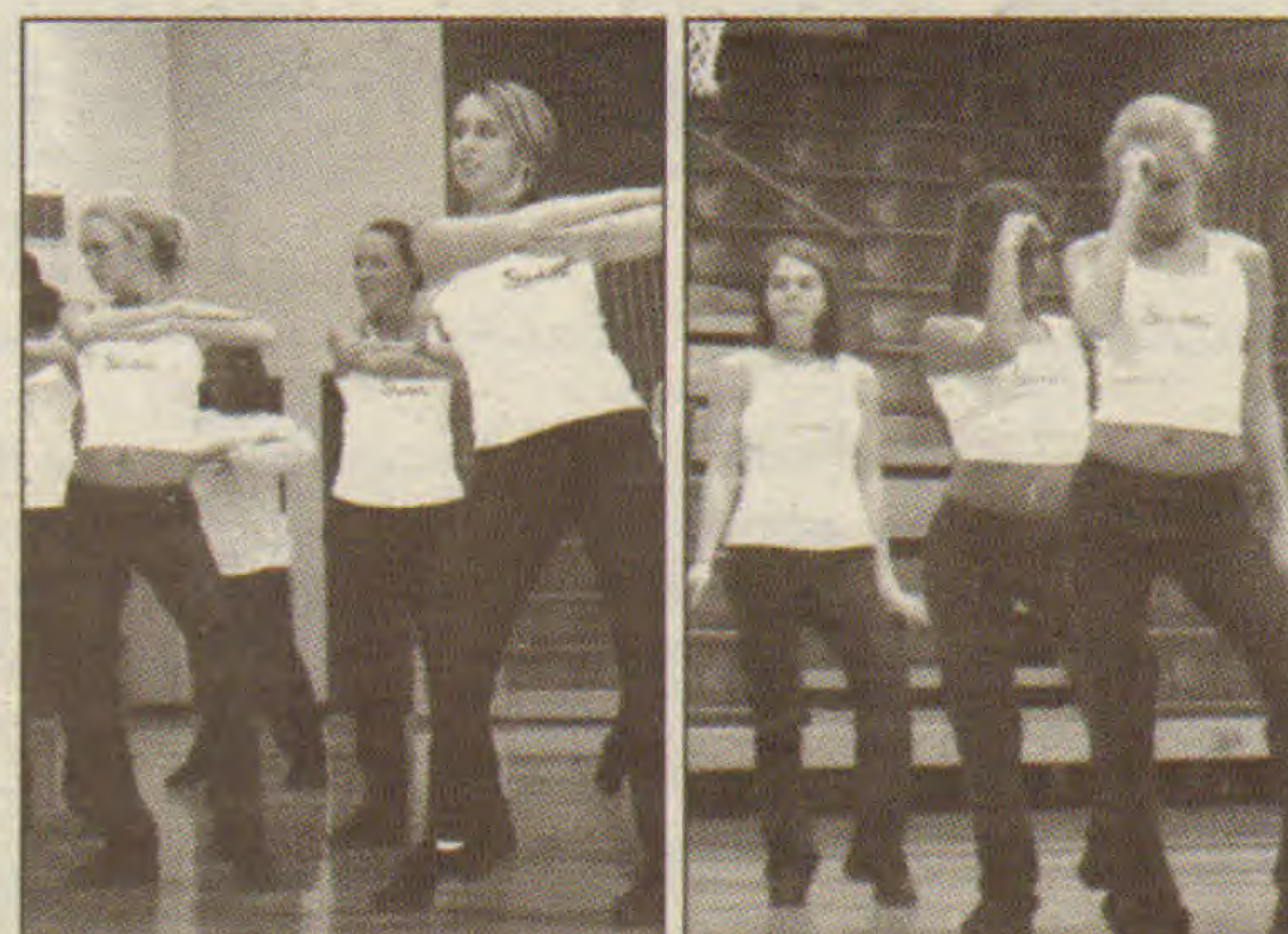
Once everyone has learned the dance to their fullest ability comes cleaning; and the smallest thing counts: hand placement, pointed toes, and even where you are looking.

A challenge also faced by a dance team is costumes: how to wear your hair, the make-up and, of course, the outfit. This is all part of being a team.

After all that work has been completed, they have succeeded at their goal: they have a well-choreographed dance they are proud to showcase.

The starlets start their year off full blast by attending summer camp where they showcase a dance that they have worked endless hours on.

There they will learn four dances in three days; then come back home to Shelton State to perfect the dances, and learn new ones to get ready to kick off another season of basketball.



The "choreographer" Nikki Sharp watches the girls practice her routine for the troop's final dance of the semester.

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Ex-Bucs trying for the Big Leagues

Getting a step closer to the Big Leagues are two of Shelton's very own former baseball players, Bobby Sprowl and Brandon Medders.

Sprowl, son of Shelton coach Bobby Sprowl, reported with pitchers and catchers as a catcher at the New York Yankees' camp in Tampa, Fla. on Feb. 17. Sprowl batted .296 in 95 games with Arizona's Class A team in South Bend, Ind. and was then traded to the Yankees. While with the Yankees, he batted .402 with 20 RBIs in Class A Battle

Creek. Sprowl was also named a Midwest League Post-Season All-Star. Medders, a graduate from Hillcrest High School, is included among the spring training invitees for the Arizona Diamondbacks. Both played for the Shelton State Buccaneers in 1999.

"It's an honor for the kids, but it shows what type of players we've had in our program," said Bobby Sprowl. "You always enjoy watching kids have success, whether it's at a college program or in pro ball."

"In baseball, there is something electrifying about the big leagues. I had read so much about (Stan) Musial, (Ted) Williams and (Jackie) Robinson. I had put those guys on a pedestal. They were something special. I really thought they put their pants on different, rather than one leg at a time." — Hank Aaron

Lady Bucs take regular-season crown with the "Slaughter in Boaz"

Both the men's and women's basketball teams continued along their winning ways during the last two weeks, with but one exception: a streak-snapping loss by the Lady Bucs in Hanceville.

Wallace State-Hanceville on Feb. 16 proved a tough nut to crack for both squads, **HOOPS** actually, with the men eeking out a two-point victory, 81-79; the women, though, couldn't quite pull it out and fell, 89-81.

With that win, the fellows raised their record to 22-6 and 11-1 in the Alabama Community College Conference. The gals' overall record now stands at 20-7, and 9-1 in their ACCC conference.

On the Saturday before, Feb. 14, both Shelton teams won in Boaz against Snead State. The men had a bit of challenge in dispatching

Snead, finally securing a 102-90 victory.

The women, on the other hand, destroyed Snead like truly marauding Buccaneers. The final bloody tally was 83-53. This win secured the regular-season

Division II ACCC championship for Shelton. Head Coach Madonna Thompson was ebullient after the decimation. "We accomplished two goals in one game," she said. "We won our 20th game of the season; and since this was our last conference game, we finished number one in our conference. We win the regular season."

The last two regular-season games for the men are Feb. 23 at home against Bevill-

Walker and Wednesday, Feb. 25, against Lawson State at home. This last game will be Sophomore Night at the Umfrey

Center, with the last chance to thank the departing players a pre-game feature.

The Lady Bucs close out their regular season with home games on Feb. 25 against Lawson State and on Sophomore Night against Columbia State on Feb. 28.

The men tip-off at 7:30 and the women at 5:30 p.m.



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From Page 2

ture as a whole needs to improve in its interaction with the educational system in the United States. These areas included:

- more active participation by black parents in every aspect of education
- getting over an inherent mistrust of the system
- overcoming the cultural bias where some parents seem to be more concerned with "caring" than "learning"
- demanding homework assignments
- stricter monitoring of children's time
- overcoming of the often negative effects of peer pressure

tive effects of peer pressure

Tucker said black churches can be the key to overcoming the last obstacle to African-American educational achievement.

The last remarks of the event were made by Dr. Amilcar Shabazz of UA, who urged attendees to take a hand in ensuring the Brown legacy will endure.

"We need to reinvigorate our democracy" through active participation, Shabazz said.

Dr. Cordell Wynn, special assistant to Shelton president, closed the proceedings with his favorite mantra. "We can do better together," he chanted along with the audience.

With that, Wynn adjourned so the crowd could fulfill "many biological needs"—something a Fredd get-together always does quite nicely.

Mockingbird a marvel of choreography

Everything was going along quite nicely during a recent performance of *To Kill a Mockingbird* at the Bean-Brown Theatre at Shelton when a seven year-old almost stole the show.

He dang-near took off with it right in front of a full house and a packed stage.

But he didn't quite get away; the director's keen sense of balance kept the little thief in check after all.

Dylan R.J. Snyder made a dandy little Dill, with his precocious verbal bravura and wide-eyed, just-a-kid-after-all reactions.

But after his enchanting introduction, director Paul K. Looney folded him right in with every other physical, verbal and emotional delight of

the show.

Just when you thought it was the kids' play—wonderful Laura Jean Allen as Scout and Jameson Sanford as Jem, as well as Snyder—along would pop-up a Shakespearean-quality soliloquy by Jeff Wilson as Atticus.

But don't get too focused on him, for, bam, here comes another sleight-of-hand scene change and maybe here's Susie Johnson to rip your heart out as tragic Mayella Ewell.

Yes, if the Feb. 12-22 Theatre Tuscaloosa production of *Mockinbird* proved nothing else, it showed that Looney's the best choreographer around. He made that ol' bird dance as well as it's sung for 40 years.

Englewood Apartment Homes

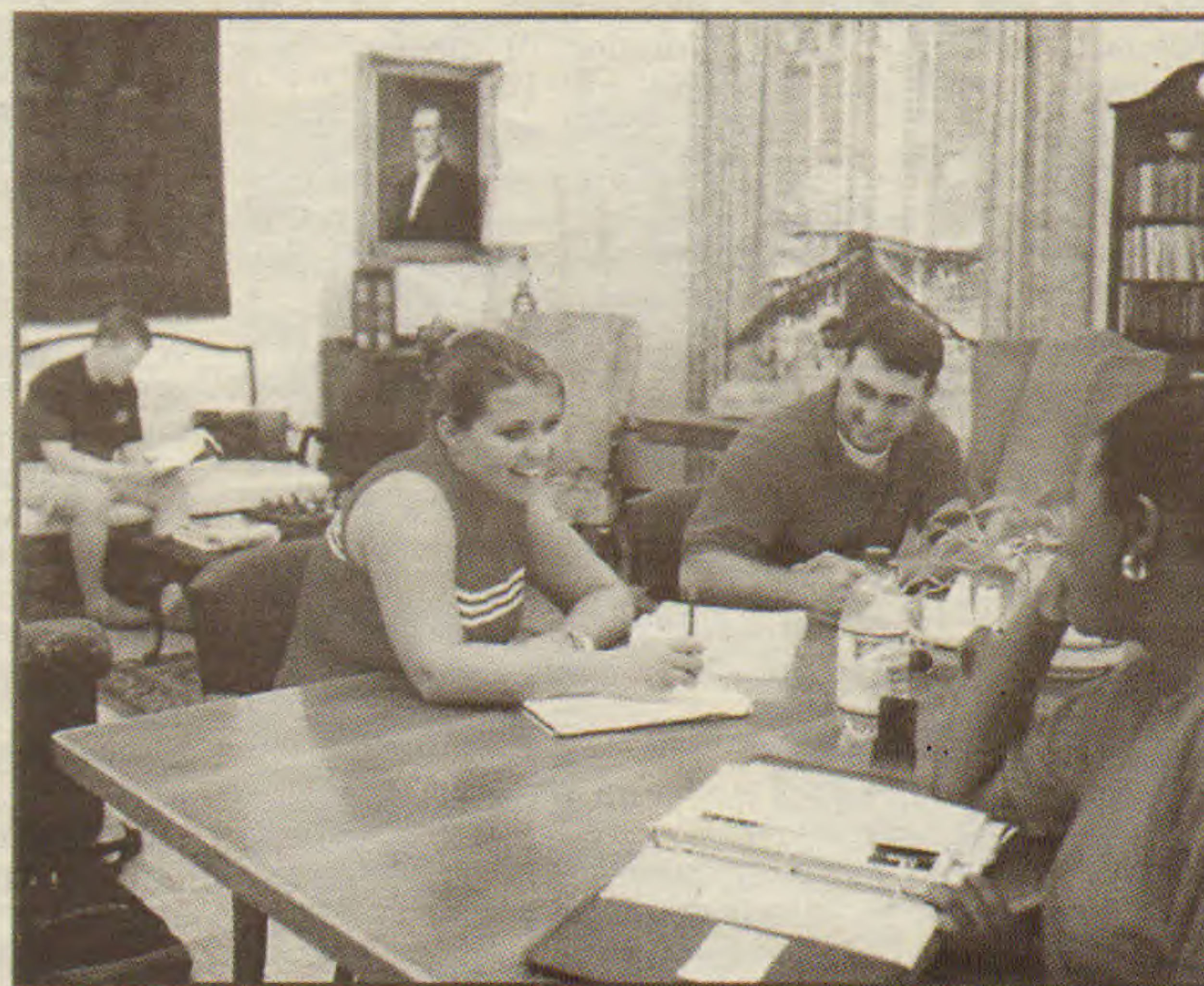
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Singers From Page 1

state vocal auditions at the University of Alabama on Feb. 20 - 21.

Shelton is the only two-year college participating in the auditions.

"Every year the judges place Shelton students very high in the competition. This year should be no exception," said Glinda Blackshear, Shelton music instructor and director of the Shelton State Singers (the organization that most of the students belong to).

After performances in the categories of freshmen and sophomore classical repertoire on Feb. 20, the musical theatre and graduate students performed on Feb. 21.

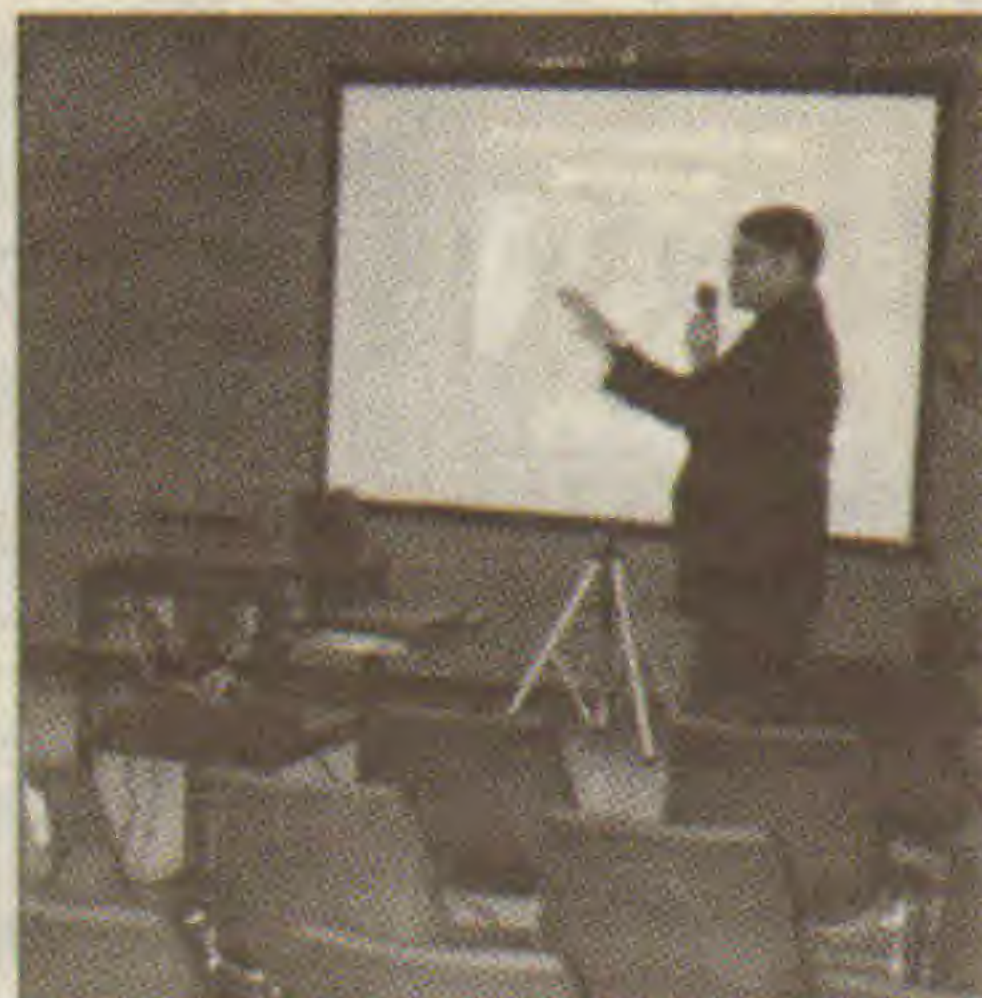
With judges from all over the state, the highest honor for any of the competitors is to be chosen to perform in a recital at the end of auditions in front of an audience of their peers.

In the past each year, a number of Shelton students have been chosen to participate in this recital.

The Shelton students taking part in the auditions are Cyndi Watson, singing in soprano, performing "Nel cor piu non mi sento" by Giovanni Paisiello; "Se tu

m'ami" by Alessandro Parisotti sung by Jennifer Robinson in soprano; "Se miei sospiri" by Francois Joseph Fetis performed by Katie Lewis in mezzo-soprano. Josh Noland, tenor, singing "La donna e mobile" by Guiseppi Verdi; Amy McLaurine, soprano, singing Chanson de Florian by Benjamin Godard; "The Lonesome Dove" by Kurt Weill from *Down in the Valley* performed by Cassidy Evans, soprano; Jonathan Pate, tenor, singing "Kansas City" from *Oklahoma* by Richard Rodgers; "Wishing You Were Somehow Here" from *The Phantom of the Opera* by Andrew Lloyd Webber performed by Julia Ayers, soprano; Megan Skelton, soprano, singing "Can't Help Lovin' dat Man" from *Showboat* by Jerome Kern; "Stars" from *Les Miserables* by Claude-Michel Schonberg performed by Chad Mills, baritone; "On a Wonderful Day Like Today" from *The Roar of the Greasepaint* by Bricusse and Newley sung by Katie Besant, mezzo-soprano; Laura White, mezzo-soprano singing "The Lusty Month of May" from *Camelot* by Frederick Loewe; and "Let Them Hear You" from *Ragtime* by Richard Flaherty performed by Wheeler Kincaid, tenor.

Rural From Page 1



Dr. Armit Sharma answers student questions during his lecture on opportunities for rural health care providers.

ence about the real possibility of one — or more — of them becoming a good, old-fashioned country doctor. "Having a rural background is not always a disadvantage," Sharma said in his 40-minute talk.

"In this case, it's an advantage. We are looking for students from community colleges who are much more likely to go to a rural area and practice medicine, and stay there."

Sharma directs the University of Alabama School of Medicine department of community and rural medicine. Each year the school enrolls 10 new students set up in the rural health-care path, and, Sharma says, they are

hoping to make that 15 in the near future.

These lucky students are helped along the way to a life of service that should seem pretty sweet by anyone's standards. Sharma says the person who finishes his medical degree through this program can expect to make about \$150,000 per year in rural medicine, be set up in practice at no personal expense and be a very highly esteemed member of the community.

What about malpractice lawsuits? "Not a problem," Sharma insists. "Malpractice insurance in primary, rural healthcare is cheap because these people do not get sued. They know their patients, and their patients know and care about them."

After his talk, Sharma elaborated on the importance of health care to a rural community. "One rural physician is worth \$350,000 and about 17 jobs to a community each year," Sharma said.

Businesses and manufacturing set up where health care is available. A primary care physician is of prime importance to the quality of life wherever they practice.

Sharma's presentation was arranged by the national academic honorary at Shelton, Phi Theta Kappa, and its sponsor, psychology instructor Nora Lee. Lee was ecstatic about Sharma's presentation and excited about the opportu-

nities he spoke about for the college's students. "I wish every student could have heard him. We invited all the science students, particularly. This is something they could really do. It's hard to get into medical school otherwise, but this is a good way to get help all the way through."

Dr. Sharma's life and career features the kind of activities and exploits you hear about in the news and marvel over. After receiving his medical training at Madras Medical College in India, he worked in rural India, hooking up with the World Health Organization and their Polio Eradication Programs.

While working with the British after an Indian earthquake, he decided to come to America to learn more about western medicine. Even as a medical student, Dr. Sharma volunteered his time to help patients in underserved areas.

Before he goes home to India, Dr. Sharma plans to complete an internal medicine residency and work in rural Alabama himself.

Both Nora Lee and Dr. Sharma encourage students to dream big and consider a rewarding life in rural medicine themselves. To speak to Lee at Shelton call 391-2367. But Dr. Sharma says students should feel free, also, to call him directly at UA at 348-1948, or e-mail him at asharma@cchs.ua.edu.

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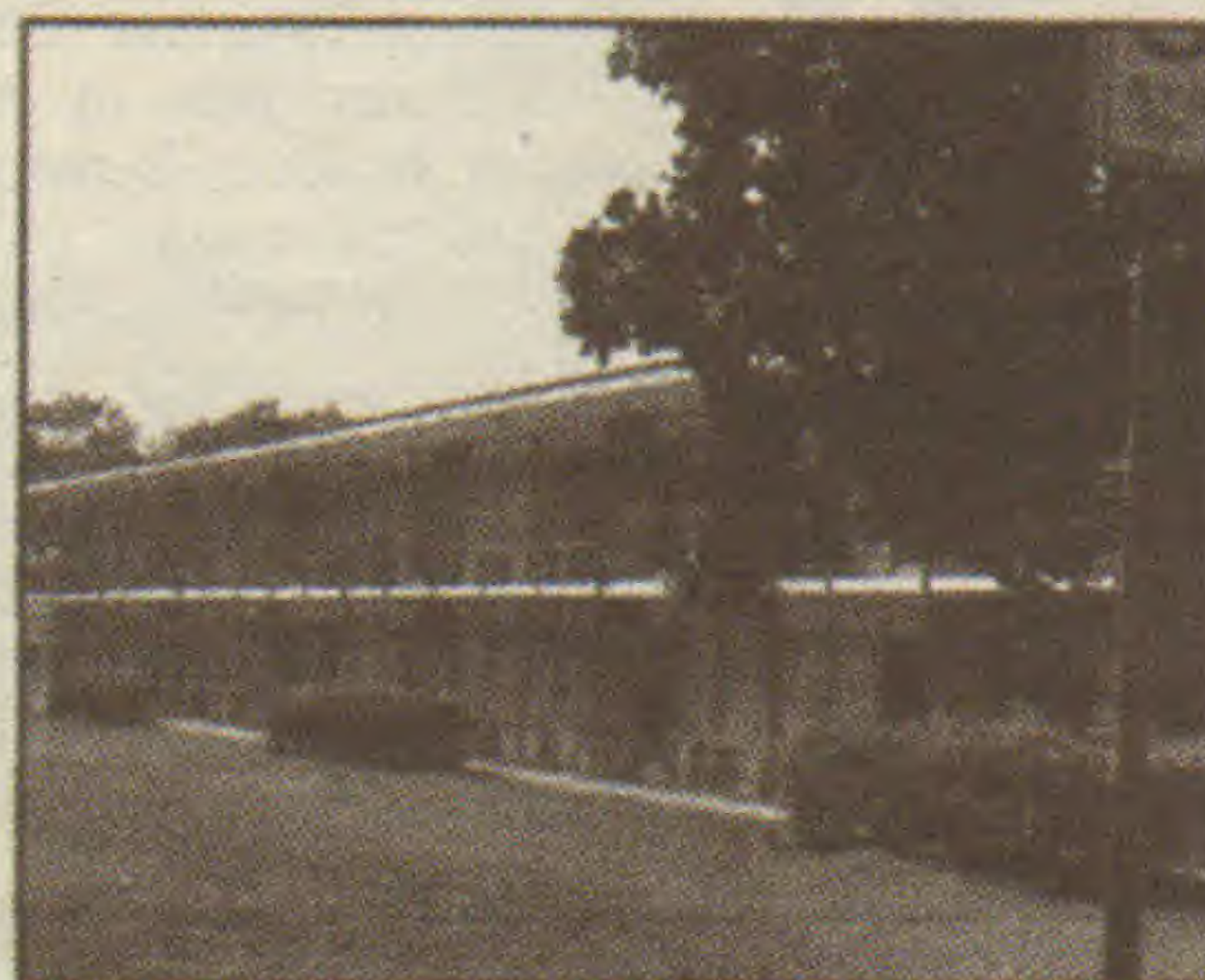
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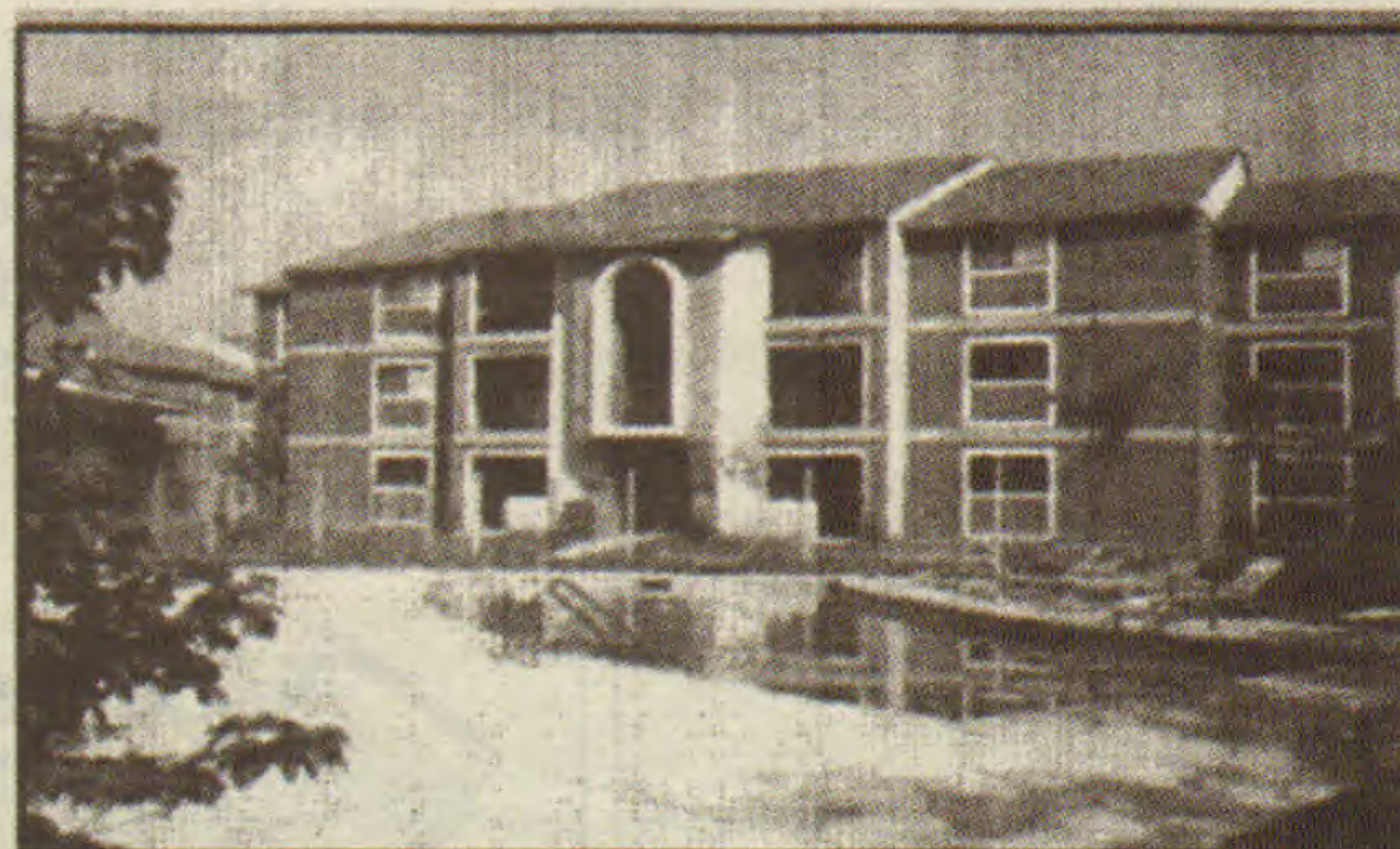
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